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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

NEW ARGENTINE APPLE IMPORT REGULATIONS

Restrictions on the importation of apples and certain other fresh fruits into Argentina are established by the provisions of a decree which are to become effective on July 1, 1931, according to information received in the Foreign Agricultural Service from representatives of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce in Buenos Aires. The fresh fruits for which the restrictions have been established are apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, oranges, mandarins, lemons, cherries, plums, grapes, quinces, and melons. Since the interest of American growers and shippers in this decree is confined mainly to apples, the following summary of its provisions covers that fruit only.

Under this decree apples can be imported into Argentina only from May 1 to December 15 of each year. Certain requirements, however, must be met before entry will be permitted. The fruit must be packed before shipment in "the containers of standard types adopted by the exporting country." Recent dispatches from Argentina state that the barrel commonly used by eastern apple shippers will be recognized as a standard container by the Argentine officials. Moreover, each apple must be wrapped "in specially prepared paper" which has been stamped with the name of "the grower or packer" and with the country of origin. The oiled paper now being used by the Pacific Coast packers will meet the requirements of this part of the decree, provided the information required is stamped on it. The container in which the apples are packed must bear an indication of the contents, variety, number of apples, name and address of the producer or packer and the country of origin.

In addition to the above requirements all shipments of apples to Argentina must be made under refrigeration and must be accompanied by a sanitary certificate. This certificate must be issued by the official technical authorities in the country of origin. The certificate must show that the fruit is free from parasites and must give the variety, region where grown (locality and state), point of embarkation, name of ship carrying the fruit, name of consignee or representative of shipper at port of destination, and the date of issue of the certificate. The certificate must be visaed by the Argentine Consul at the port of shipment or by the one at the nearest port.

The decree also provides that the fruit cannot be imported through any other ports than those of Buenos Aires and Rosario until the Government has been able to establish a quarantine service at other ports. All shipments will be subjected to inspection upon arrival in Argentina. If there is any reason to suspect the presence of parasites the shipment will be placed in quarantine for such time as the sanitary officer may consider necessary. If no parasites are found the fruit will be released for entry. If blotch, canker, brown rot, soft rot, Mediterranean fruit fly, apple curculio, apple fruit miner, apple maggot and apple weevil are found, the whole shipment will be incinerated without indemnification, and at the expense of the importer. Apples attacked by other injurious parasites not mentioned above will be refused entry but will not be incinerated in the event that they are immediately reshipped.

Possible Effects of Decree on Apple Shipments to Argentina

Argentina is the most important market in South America for United States apples, average exports to that market for the six years 1924-25 to 1929-30 having amounted to 209,000 boxes and 105,000 barrels yearly. These amounts represented 4.6 per cent of our total barrelled apple exports and 3 per cent of the boxed apple exports. In the past six years about 84.4 per cent of all barrels and 87.5 per cent of the boxes exported from the United States to Argentina had been made by November 30. In years of large boxed apple crops in the United States, however, considerable quantities of boxed apples have been exported after November. The prohibition of imports into Argentina after December 15, may in most years not seriously curtail the movement of American apples, especially barrelled apples, to that market since fruit leaving New York by the first part of the last week in November and Seattle and Portland about two weeks earlier will still be able to arrive at Buenos Aires and Rosario before the closing date of entry. Other provisions in the decree, however, are expected to result in a material curtailment in the export movement of American apples to the Argentine market.

APPLES: Per cent exported from the United States to Argentina during the first four and five months of the season

Season	Barrels		Boxes	
	July-October	July-November	July-October	July-November
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1924-25.....	70.0	89.9	68.6	91.3
1925-26.....	63.7	63.6	62.4	73.7
1926-27.....	45.3	84.8	53.9	89.3
1927-28.....	84.9	95.6	94.8	98.4
1928-29.....	41.7	59.7	60.1	75.3
1929-30.....	79.2	97.2	46.0	97.9
Average....	64.4	84.4	63.8	87.5
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The requirement that all apples have to be wrapped in oiled paper, stamped with the name of the grower or packer and the country of origin, will have a much greater effect on the exports than the closing date. At present, apples packed in barrels and baskets are not wrapped at all, but shredded oiled paper is used to a considerable extent in the packing. Furthermore, it would be quite awkward to pack wrapped apples in barrels. The wrapping of apples is new to the eastern packers and since the packers in general seldom know where the fruit is to be sold, many would not incur the extra expense of wrapping. The wrapping requirement, therefore, practically excludes barrelled apples from the Argentine market. Boxed apples are usually wrapped in oiled paper but the practice of stamping the wrapper with the name of the grower or packer, the brand, and country of origin, has not been widely practiced except for the best packs. Apples packed in bushel baskets could be wrapped in oiled wraps quite as well as those packed in boxes. The cost, however, would be somewhat greater than that prevailing for the present method of packing baskets with shredded oiled paper.

Apple shippers from both the barreled and boxed apple districts of the United States are likely to be reluctant to make large shipments of apples to Argentina in view of the strict inspection rules established by the new decree. The new regulations specify that the fruit will be incinerated if the presence of certain specified parasites and diseases are discovered. Since some of these may develop in the fruit during transit it is obvious that shippers cannot be at all certain that their consignments will be permitted entry. In addition to the definitely specified parasites and diseases the decree provides that should other parasites be discovered the entire shipment would either have to be reexported immediately or also suffer confiscation by incineration.

It would seem, therefore, that unless the decree is altered, any decrease in apple shipments during the coming season will be more the result of the new packing and inspection requirements than of the fixed closing date of December 15.

APPLES: Exports from the United States
to Argentina, 1924-25 to 1930-31

Month	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
	<u>Barrels</u>						
July.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
August.....	132:	0:	0:	0:	603:	200:	4,517
September.....	950:	9,292:	19,831:	20,438:	12,524:	23,328:	32,579
October.....	35,862:	52,329:	34,039:	49,367:	39,166:	97,301:	39,839
November.....	10,471:	19,268:	46,995:	8,815:	22,521:	27,448:	55,805
December.....	1,558:	14,511:	18,029:	3,609:	7,032:	2,496:	22,828
January.....	3,447:	1,339:	0:	0:	40,080:	1,764:	0
February.....	100:	0:	0:	0:	3,459:	0:	0
March.....	200:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
April.....	2:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	a/
May.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	a/
June.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	a/
Total.....	52,702:	93,789:	113,834:	82,229:	125,385:	152,537:	155,568
	:	:	:	:	:	:	b/
	<u>Boxes</u>						
July.....	0:	5,715:	17,753:	0:	0:	0:	10,940
August.....	14,887:	18,683:	14,472:	11,993:	22,632:	18,500:	17,579
September.....	10,876:	11,955:	16,882:	29,002:	1,992:	11,125:	12,718
October.....	42,769:	53,779:	34,293:	174,254:	177,378:	105,681:	98,681
November.....	22,503:	16,213:	54,566:	7,938:	50,845:	152,848:	30,069
December.....	3,647:	20,554:	14,060:	3,511:	11,765:	4,144:	39,369
January.....	5,067:	4,426:	0:	0:	28,476:	400:	31,452
February.....	3:	100:	100:	0:	8,934:	1,260:	20,159
March.....	0:	3,000:	1,050:	0:	3,696:	500:	0
April.....	0:	5,713:	1,025:	200:	30,186:	0:	a/
May.....	0:	4,220:	350:	0:	0:	0:	a/
June.....	12:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	a/
Total.....	99,764:	144,358:	154,551:	226,898:	335,904:	294,458:	260,967
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Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service Division from the official records of the United States Department of Commerce.

a/ Not yet available. b/ Incomplete.

